

REMARKS

It is noted that claims 6-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hösel U.S. Patent No. 5,050,271.

It is respectfully submitted that the Hösel patent does not anticipate claims 6-8 in their present form. Claims 6-8 have been revised to overcome the indefiniteness referred to by the Examiner and thus are free of their rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

The applicants' invention is directed to the novel method of providing a system in which a zero speed indicating device is provided which can be periodically tested to insure that it is accurately functioning to indicate when the moving component being guarded by a locked guard closure has come to a complete stop. The guard closure can then be unlocked and a repair person can have access to the heretofore mentioned moving component this is no longer moving with the assurance that he can not be damaged thereby.

It is recognized that Hösel discloses a safety device which includes a "standstill" monitor for sensing rotation and standstill of a rotary component. The rotating component is located behind a locked guard that can only be open when the rotation sensor indicates that the rotating component has come to a complete stop. The essence of the Hösel system is to provide an arrangement whereby a back-up is included to insure that the locked guard cannot be opened until the moving component has completely stopped. Heretofore the safety system has relied upon a tachogenerator connected to a current by a voltage measuring relay which circuit controls the locking and unlocking of the guard cover. The tachogenerator delivers current as long as the carding cylinder rotates. Upon standstill of the carding cylinder the locking device is released so that the protective cover may be opened. This procedure was subject to the problem that a wire breakage or the like would result in a lack of current flow and a potential premature unlocking of the protective cover. Hösel introduced another circuit into the system to directly monitor the movement of the

rotating member being carded. Hösel thus involves a relatively complex system that is tied into the measuring of the speed of a guarded rotating member.

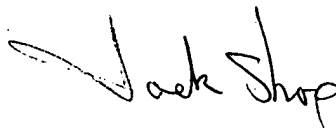
While this may appear in the first instance to be anticipatory of applicants' invention it is respectfully submitted that this is not the case.

In the instant invention we are providing a system in which there is a zero speed indicator that is used to indicate the movement of the guarded member, which indicator can be tested at any time during the operating or stopping of a moving component to determine if it is functioning accurately. The zero speed indicator is in control of the locking and unlocking guard mechanism. Specifically, the reliability and accuracy of the zero speed indicator is tested while the machine component is running under power. The zero speed indicator is temporarily uncoupled or isolated from the monitored component. In this isolated state any known suitable testing methods or devices may be used to verify the accuracy of the zero speed indicator. If the zero speed indicator fails to operate properly the guard closure will remain latched until a repair has been completed.

The claims presently in the case (claims 6-8) clearly distinguish from Hösel and their allowance is solicited.

If the prosecution of this case can be expedited by a telephone conference it would be appreciated if Examiner N. Fayyaz call Jack Shore at (312) 521-2778.

Respectfully submitted,



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